

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF GEORGE TOUART

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and dedicated service of Northwest Florida's George Touart who passed away on January 24, 2014, after a courageous battle with cancer. Throughout his long career in public service, George Touart mentored and inspired many individuals throughout Escambia County, Florida. The loss of a passionate and hardworking man is truly felt among the Northwest Florida community for which he cared so deeply.

George graduated Pensacola High School in 1966. At the University of Southern Mississippi, he earned his Bachelor of Arts in Community and Regional Planning and was an active member of the Kappa Alpha fraternity. He then received his Master's degree in Public Administration from Troy State University. Before returning home to Florida, George served as a city councilman in Pascagoula, Mississippi, a public information officer for the Mississippi State Highway Department, and as county administrator for two Mississippi counties.

In April 2002, the Escambia County Board of Commissioners appointed George as the Escambia County Administrator. He served in this capacity until December 2007 and then later served as the Interim County Administrator from December 2012 to January 2014. It was during George's role as County Administrator of Escambia County that his admirable dedication proved instrumental in helping the citizens of Northwest Florida recover from the devastating effects of Hurricane Ivan in 2004. Under George's unwavering and efficient leadership in working with both FEMA and the State of Florida, repairs were made to infrastructure, communication was restored, and grants were obtained, all contributing to the county's overall recovery. His hard work garnered national recognition for Escambia County by FEMA. Not only did George exhibit great strength in a time of adversity, but he also provided personal comfort and reassurance to many affected citizens of the community.

During his tenure in office, George also worked with the Pensacola Chamber of Commerce to bring several economic initiatives to Escambia County, such as Navy Federal Credit Union Expansion, Project Evergreen, and Project Pearl. He can also be credited for completing the Escambia County Jail transition under budget as well as negotiating the Interlocal Agreement between Escambia County and the City of Pensacola.

Resonating from within, George had a true sense of community and civic duty. Aside from his leadership with the county, he was involved in a myriad of civic organizations throughout his life, including: Conquistadores,

the Masonic Lodge and the Hadji Shrine, Five Flags Rotary, Irish Politician's Club, Moss Point Young Men's Business Club, Pensacola Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Escambia County, and Baptist Hospital Board of Directors. Additionally, George was a member of Perdido Bay United Methodist Church. In his spare time, he enjoyed golfing, fishing, and hunting. Those whose lives were touched by George mourn the loss of a devoted man with an unwavering commitment to service.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the life of George Touart. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our sincerest condolences and prayers to his wife, Barbara; sons, Matthew and Jacob; daughters, Christy and Amber; seven grandchildren, Meagan, Zackary, Brennan, Ivey, Jack, Mylah, and Carter; and parents, Clyde and Mary. He will truly be missed.

CONGRATULATING THE NEWNAN-COWETA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 2013

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of the Coweta County Board of Commissioners and to congratulate the members for receiving the 2013 Prosperity Award. This award—presented by the Newnan-Coweta Chamber of Commerce—honors contributions the commissioners have made toward promoting prosperity in their community. Since 2007 this award has been presented in recognition of 30 different companies and organizations that have made a similar outstanding impact.

The Coweta County Commissioners have demonstrated a clear and enduring commitment to protecting small businesses and encouraging economic growth—most recently through their decision to eliminate impact fees on development in the county. These commissioners are critical to the economic growth in their area and have shown a great lasting commitment to promote the prosperity and betterment of their community. I am proud to have the opportunity to stand before you today to highlight the achievements of my fellow Georgians and to congratulate them on earning the 2013 Prosperity Award.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my thanks to the hard working people of the Coweta County Board for their leadership role in the community, and congratulate them on receiving the 2013 Prosperity Award.

HONORING AARON DARRAH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Aaron Darrah. Aaron is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 362, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Aaron has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Aaron has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Aaron has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Aaron Darrah for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION AND ABORTION INSURANCE FULL DISCLOSURE ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 7, an unnecessary and intrusive bill that represents a short-sighted attack on the rights of women and families, and undermines access to insurance that covers comprehensive women's health care.

H.R. 7 would diminish meaningful access to healthcare for millions of lower and middle income families by denying them tax credits if the insurance plan they choose through the Health Insurance Marketplaces includes coverage for abortion services. Removing these tax breaks for the most vulnerable members of our society is not only dangerous, it is heartless, and it will return a constitutionally-protected medical procedure to its dark back-alley days. If enacted, this change will likely lead insurers to remove coverage for abortion services from all plans offered in the marketplaces, thus denying access to this coverage for women who wish to purchase such coverage out of their own pockets. Rather than offering real solutions to the problems our nation faces, the other side of the aisle only offers a return to the fights over social issues of the past.

Republicans claim that H.R. 7 merely codifies the Hyde Amendment, a provision prohibiting the use of federal funds for most abortion services, but Title I of the bill actually includes

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

numerous vague provisions that may in some cases modify and expand the funding restrictions relating to abortion currently included in annual appropriations bills. Besides, the Hyde Amendment has been passed every single year for nearly forty years—we already have a law prohibiting the use of federal funds to pay for abortion, we don't need another one.

This legislation threatens women's health by denying access to comprehensive women's health care that includes abortion. That is why I vehemently oppose H.R. 7.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall Votes 24 and 25. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on both.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize National School Choice Week. Designated from January 27–31, 2014, National School Choice Week serves to raise public awareness of the importance of making educational opportunities available to all students.

No student should have a darker future or a limited educational horizon based upon the neighborhood they call home. Every student should have access to their own American dream, and the key to their dream is a quality education.

I have advocated for educational reform and expansion of educational opportunity to all throughout my years of service in the Florida State Legislature and in the U.S. Congress. I have advanced initiatives that include home schooling, building a Florida online high school, creating magnet programs, establishing charter schools, and establishing scholarships that allow students from failing schools to attend high performing schools. I believe that good educational policy provides choices to families and local educators who understand the unique needs of their children and students. Through providing choice, educational quality increases, which will ensure that all students are able to excel in their academics and rise to meet their full potential.

I am pleased to recognize National School Choice Week.

HONORING JIM CACCIOTTOLO,
PRESIDENT OF THE CHIEF ENGINEERS
ASSOCIATION OF
CHICAGOLAND

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim Cacciottolo, who was sworn in Jan-

uary 25 as the new President of the Chief Engineers Association of Chicagoland. Mr. Cacciottolo, a resident of Chicago's Bridgeport community, previously served on the organization's board of directors for the last 16 years.

Mr. Cacciottolo grew up in Chicago's Archer Heights and Garfield Ridge communities on the city's Southwest Side. He worked for the City of Chicago for 25 years before retiring in 2008. When he retired, Mr. Cacciottolo was the chief operating engineer for the Chicago Police Department, overseeing nearly 100 buildings and facilities for the Chicago Police Department, the Chicago Fire Department and other City of Chicago properties. He currently serves as a chief engineer in the private sector, helping to oversee the operations for the buildings that make up the University of Illinois Medical Center in Chicago.

Mr. Cacciottolo is the proud father of two grown children, Kristin and Anthony.

As president of the Chief Engineers Association of Chicagoland, Mr. Cacciottolo will lead a not-for-profit fraternal organization comprised of more than 800 men and women in leadership positions within the field of power engineering and real estate asset management. For over 90 years, the Chief Engineers Association of Chicagoland has brought educational services, information and camaraderie to its members through the publication of "The Chief Engineer" magazine, educational meetings and social gatherings throughout the Chicago area. The organization's motto: "Anything that can be done, can be done better."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jim Cacciottolo, whose commitment to public service and dedication to his profession will serve him well in his new role as President of the Chief Engineers Association of Chicagoland. His expertise and knowledge as a chief engineer will be a tremendous benefit and resource for other chief engineers throughout Northeastern Illinois.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF UNITED STATES ARMY SERGEANT FIRST CLASS WILLIAM K. LACEY

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Army Sergeant First Class William K. Lacey, or Kelly, as his family wants him to be remembered, who was killed in action on January 4, 2014 after a rocket propelled grenade attack by insurgents hit his unit in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan. He leaves behind his mother, father, stepmother, two daughters, three step daughters and many friends.

Born at Eglin Air Force Base where his father, Master Sergeant John H. Lacey, was stationed, Kelly spent most of his childhood in Florida. He attended Niceville High School before joining the Army in 2003. While in the Army, he attended Meridian Community College and received an Associate Degree. Sergeant First Class Lacey was assigned to the F Company, 201st Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, based in Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Kelly was on his second deployment to Afghanistan, and he had already completed

three previous deployments to Iraq: the first a 5 month deployment, the second a 14 month deployment and the other a year-long deployment. From April 2011 until March 2012, Kelly served in Afghanistan.

From his earliest time in the Army, Sergeant First Class Lacey was considered a great soldier. Over his career he earned more than a dozen honors including three Army Commendation Medals, four Army Achievement Medals, three Army Good Conduct Medals, two Afghanistan Campaign Medals with Bronze Service Star and two Iraq Campaign Medals with Bronze Service Stars. For his bravery in action, Sergeant First Class Lacey was awarded a Bronze Star with combat distinguishing device "V", two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart posthumously.

We remember Kelly and offer our deepest condolences and prayers to his family. Everyone in our great nation owes Sergeant First Class Lacey and his family a debt of gratitude for his selfless sacrifice and courage. It is vital that we keep our men and women in uniform who are in harm's way in our thoughts and prayers. I call on my colleagues and all Americans to remember Kelly and the many others who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defending our freedoms and all that we value as a nation.

MCKINNEY, "AMERICA'S CRAPE MYRTLE CITY"

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Crape Myrtle Trails of McKinney Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created to elevate and preserve the beauty and appeal of one of the fastest growing cities in North Texas, McKinney.

Established in 1998, the Crape Myrtle Trails of McKinney Foundation began with the vision of showcasing the premier flowering plant of the south, the crape myrtle, throughout our community in a deliberate and meaningful manner. After the foundation gained official 501(c)(3) status, the foundation in partnership with the City of McKinney established the World Collection Park to feature every variety of crape myrtle on seven acres of city parkland. The World Collection Park officially opened for enjoyment in 2011, and as of 2013, nearly 22,000 crape myrtles have been planted by the foundation, City of McKinney, and other partners.

Not only does the Crape Myrtle Trails of McKinney Foundation serve as an agent to enhance the aesthetics of the city, it has established programs, such as an annual Run the Trails of McKinney Fun Run and "McKinney Crape Myrtles and Me—Watch Us Grow!" an annual science and art contest for McKinney ISD elementary schools, to further involve the community in its city's development.

I commend the City of McKinney on their time, energy, and efforts in making McKinney a better place to live for my fellow Texans. Promoting a higher quality of life is something we simply can't put a price on. That's why I support the City of McKinney to officially register as "America's Crape Myrtle City" and

press forward towards their goal of planting 50,000 crape myrtle trees throughout McKinney.

God Bless all your efforts and God Bless Texas. I salute you.

HONORING ALEXANDER R.V.
BATTLES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alexander R.V. Battles. Alex is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 360, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alex has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alex has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Alex has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Alex helped bring awareness to his local blood bank after receiving a blood transfusion himself that saved his life.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alexander R.V. Battles for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING GEORGE LES, THE OAK
LAWN CHAMBER OF COM-
MERCE'S BUSINESS PERSON OF
THE YEAR

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor George Les, a longtime restaurateur and community institution in Oak Lawn, Illinois. For the last 40 years, Mr. Les and his brother, Angelo, have run the famous Les Brothers restaurant at 87th Street and Ridgeland Avenue. On January 18, Mr. Les was recognized by the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce as its "Business Person of the Year."

Mr. Les embodies the quintessential American success story. In 1968, when he was just 10 years old, he came to the United States with his family from Greece. He grew up in Chicago's Marquette Park community, landing his first restaurant job bussing tables at age 12. In 1974, he and Angelo went to work for their father, Bill, when he opened the original Les Brothers at the same Oak Lawn location the restaurant is at today.

Anne Marie Casey, past president of the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce, noted in her remarks before Mr. Les was awarded "Business Person of the Year" that Les Brothers is an "Oak Lawn institution" and "a place where George treats every customer that comes into his business like they are friends and family, even if they are first-time customers."

Through hard work and perseverance, Mr. Les has opened other Les Brothers restaurants in Hickory Hills, New Lenox and Homer Glen—all in Chicago's south suburbs.

Mr. Les and his family are active in all of the communities they serve, sponsoring and supporting many local causes and events. In Oak Lawn, he is particularly passionate about Westside Baseball, the league his sons Bill and Jim played in growing up.

THE RETIREMENT OF BISHOP
RUDOLPH W. MCKISSICK, SR.

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick, Sr., the Pastor of Bethel Baptist Institutional Church.

For over 50 years, Bishop McKissick has served the Bethel community as its pastor. But previous to that, he helped the community as a choral member, music director, and Deacon prior to being called to succeed Rev. Robert Wilson in 1966 as Bethel's tenth pastor.

Throughout his tenure, Bishop McKissick, Sr.'s exemplary teachings and spiritual guidance have inspired more than fifty servant leaders to accept God's calling to the ministry. Among them is his son Bishop Rudolph McKissick, Jr., Co-Pastor, Bethel Baptist Institutional Church. In addition, Bishop McKissick, Sr., demonstrating his commitment to meeting and supporting the ever-changing needs and growth of congregants, has established more than fifty ministries. A Christian Mission (The Help Center), marriage ministry, church basketball league, youth retreats, and missionary outreach program are among the initiatives long recognized for its innovation and excellence. Most notably and characteristic of the passion Bishop McKissick, Sr. and his wife of forty-nine years, Estelle Williams McKissick, share for education, is B.E.S.T. (Bethel Enhancing Students Totally) Academy, a program established in 1993 to support the academic needs of elementary and secondary students. Under their leadership, B.E.S.T. has become a valuable resource earning Bethel recognition as an approved summer school site for Duval County's most academically challenged students.

This high level of commitment to quality education is evident throughout Bishop McKissick, Sr.'s journey, as evidenced by his own educational achievements and affiliations. Bishop McKissick, Sr. holds a bachelor's degree for Edward Waters College (EWC) and has received training at a number of other leading institutions including Tuskegee Institute, the Music Institute, the Music Institute of Columbia University, Princeton University and Luther Rice Seminary. He also has conferred doctoral degrees from EWC and Bethune Cookman University. He has held membership on a number of boards and commissions including appointment to the first Board of Trustees at the University of North Florida, the Jacksonville Urban League, the YMCA James Weldon Johnson branch, and The Help Center. Bishop McKissick, Sr. has launched partnerships across the globe with Bethel's adoption of churches in South Africa and Panama.

He was chosen by Fresh Ministries to participate in a 1999 tour of South Africa, and a tour of Turkey, hosted last year by the Amity Turkish Cultural Center.

Recognized as a community stalwart, Bishop McKissick, Sr. has earned a host of awards and accomplishments. A few include recipient of the 1992 Humanitarian award presented by the National Conference for Christian and Jews; City of Jacksonville's Human Relations Award; National Association for Equal Opportunity Award; Bernard Gregory Servant Leader Award; and the Meritorious Leadership Award presented by Dr. Martin Luther King, Sr. In September 2011, was elevated to Bishop of Marriage and Family in the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International.

A member of the NAACP and Omega Psi Phi fraternity, Bishop Rudolph McKissick, Sr. is married to Estelle Williams McKissick and they have one son, Bishop Rudolph McKissick, Jr. (Kimberly) and three grandchildren; Jocelyn, Janai and Joshua.

Bishop McKissick gave his final sermon as Senior Pastor of Bethel Baptist Institutional Church on Sunday January 5, 2014. He ended the sermon saying "there is no more powerful congregation than this congregation. For 175 years, God has blessed this church."

"Lord bless you and keep you . . ."

Thank you, Bishop McKissick. May the Lord Bless you and Keep you.

CONGRATULATING EDWARD M.
MURPHY

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Edward M. Murphy as he steps down after a decade as Chief Executive Officer of The MENTOR Network—a national network of local health and human services providers based in Boston, Massachusetts—and assumes the role of Executive Chairman. Ned has dedicated his career to leading public and private sector organizations that provide quality-of-life enhancing services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, children at-risk and their families, and people with brain and spinal cord injuries—including our nation's wounded warriors. In particular, in response to the establishment of the Veteran's Health Administration Assisted Living Pilot program by this body, Ned's leadership was instrumental in The MENTOR Network's development of innovative programs to serve Veterans with brain injury in the communities of their choosing.

Ned began his career working with young offenders in community reintegration programs and was appointed commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Youth Services in 1979. This began a sixteen-year period during which he held senior positions in state government, including commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and executive director of the Health and Educational Facilities Authority. After a successful career in the public sector, Ned moved on to the non-profit and private sectors, where among his notable accomplishments, he founded Alliance Health, before joining The MENTOR Network as CEO in 2004.

Ned accomplished all this as he helped raise a wonderful family; Owen, Meghan, Brendon and Jay; grandchildren, Rosa, Oona, Nora and Marlo. Ned and his wife, Ann Ellen Hornidge, continued to make a positive difference in Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for Ned's contributions to enhancing the lives of our nation's most vulnerable citizens and thank him for his continued leadership on behalf of these individuals.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, due to a medical issue, I was unable to be in Washington, DC for votes on Monday, January 27, 2014. I support H.R. 2166, the Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act, and H.R. 3008, which authorizes the Forest Service to exchange a small parcel of National Forest System land in Los Padres National Forest in California. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on both.

TRIBUTE TO KATHY SNYDER

HON. JON RUNYAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today deeply saddened by the recent news of the passing of Kathy Snyder, a long-time teacher and coach at Southern Regional High School in Manahawkin, New Jersey. Kathy devoted her entire professional life to the students of Southern Regional, and was beloved by everyone throughout the community.

Kathy, a breast cancer survivor, began teaching physical education at Southern Regional in 1977 and coached both the girl's varsity basketball and field hockey teams. Before she passed away, Kathy was in the midst of her 35th season coaching the girl's basketball team, and had hit the 500-win milestone in 2010. On the field hockey field, Snyder won more than 300 games and was named The Press Coach of the Year in 2011.

Kathy was a resilient, competitive coach who fought for women's equality in sports, and it was she who helped pave the way for the thousands of female athletes who competed in the Shore Conference. Kathy's colleagues, students and athletes loved and respected her as a coach, role model, and friend.

Mrs. Snyder was a legend at Southern Regional High School and my thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends. Kathy is survived by her husband Ken, three children—Brandon, Erin and Morgan, and granddaughter, Waverly. This is a devastating loss for the Southern Regional community.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in remembering the amazing life and legacy of Mrs. Kathy Snyder.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, on January 28, 2014, I was incorrectly recorded as "not voting" on rollcall 30, final passage of H.R. 7—No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act. I intended to vote "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 27, 2014, my flight was cancelled and I was absent for rollcall votes 24 and 25.

Had I been present for rollcall vote 24, on passage of H.R. 2166, I would have voted "yes" and had I been present for rollcall vote 25, on passage of H.R. 3008, I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING THE 13TH ANNUAL
NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the importance of recognizing January as National Mentoring Month. Since 2002, National Mentoring Month has served as an opportunity for our country to reflect on the benefits of youth mentoring and to highlight the positive impact it has on the development of our youth.

The theme of this year's mentoring month is "Mentoring Works"! It allows us to proudly and openly discuss mentoring as a vital academic and social development strategy for our youth.

The fact is that in many regions mentoring helps young people achieve academic success; it also serves to help young people make responsible decisions for their futures.

According to a recent report released by MENTOR: the National Mentoring Partnership, some of the benefits of mentoring include:

The creation of higher educational goals. It is more likely for a youth with a mentor to attend college than for a youth without a mentor.

Participation in productive and beneficial activities. It is more likely for youth with mentors to engage in leadership positions, extra-curricular activities and sports, and community service than youth without mentors.

Another added benefit of mentoring is Upward Mobility. Integrated with other national initiatives, mentoring has the capacity to reduce poverty and increase the economic mobility of young people.

NATIONAL

Youth report that formal mentoring programs provide a variety of benefits, and most com-

monly offer that they receive advice about school, get help with school issues and/or schoolwork. They also make reference to receiving help to address life problems, assistance in getting a job, choosing a career and getting into college.

Youth in informal mentoring relationships commonly offer that their mentors provided developmental, more than academic, support.

Mentoring does not only provide immediate positive effects for young people in our community, but it also fosters growth and a continuation of this type of leadership.

Nearly nine in ten respondents who were mentored report they are interested in becoming mentors. In addition to confirming the value of mentoring, this desire to become a mentor also strengthens the earlier finding that mentoring is linked with higher rates of leadership and volunteering and offers a pool of future mentors to be activated.

HOUSTON

In Houston, the Boys and Girls Club is a wonderful medium for mentoring.

The club works on supporting youth to become life-long learners by emphasizing academic success and setting goals of higher education. By providing access to tools and technology, this organization also prepares our youth for the 21st century.

Career development through literacy and tutoring is stressed as well as cultural awareness, creativity, the arts, and photography to ensure well-rounded knowledge.

This broad reaching mentoring program has yielded incredible measurable results:

Club members graduate from high school at a rate of 87 percent compared to the national average of 66 percent.

They finish college at a rate of 25 percent, exceeding the national average of 16 percent.

And they show an overall improvement of 12 percent in their grades at school.

Although we know that mentoring provides all these great benefits, 1 in 3 young people in the United States are still without a mentor. Therefore, in acknowledgement of these benefits, and in an effort to raise awareness and participation, I would like to commend all of the mentoring organizations that exist nationwide and especially those within the 18th district of Texas.

Therefore, I join the National Mentoring Month initiative to encourage local mentoring programs and organizations to plan activities in our communities that increase mentoring efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote No. 24 regarding the "Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act" (H.R. 2166). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR
ABORTION AND ABORTION IN-
SURANCE FULL DISCLOSURE
ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act. This bill specifically prohibits the expenditure of Federal funds for any abortion, and clarifies that no federal funds can be used for any health benefits coverage that includes coverage for abortions. While I believe that the Stupak amendment to the health care reform legislation codified the Hyde amendment, I believe that this bill provides extra measures to ensure Federal funds are not used for abortion.

As a society, I believe that we have a responsibility to safeguard the lives of those who are unable to protect themselves. H.R. 7 takes important steps to limiting the instances where the rights of the unborn are violated. This bill ensures that no public funding is used to pay for health care plans that include abortion coverage, and it restricts tax credits from applying to health care plans that include abortion coverage in its benefits package.

The bill does make important exemptions to these prohibitions that protect the health of mothers. The prohibitions will not apply to pregnancies that result from rape or incest or in instances where a mother's life is in danger. I believe that these exemptions provide a good balance in ensuring human life is respected.

As a strong and consistent prolife supporter, I believe that our government has an obligation to protect the lives of our country's most vulnerable citizens. I strongly support H.R. 7 and I urge my colleagues to pass this bill.

RECOGNIZING MS. MYRON WEBB

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work and unparalleled service of Ms. Myron Webb, a 28-year NASA veteran who devoted her time at the agency to Stennis Space Center, and was recently awarded the prestigious NASA Distinguished Service Medal.

The Distinguished Service Medal is a rare honor, recognizing individuals who have made a profound and indelible impact on NASA mission success. Ms. Webb joins such luminaries as Neil Armstrong, James Webb, and John Glenn.

Ms. Webb's profound commitment to Stennis, NASA, and her community are exemplified throughout her distinguished career and volunteer accomplishments. Among her incredible achievements, Ms. Webb is responsible for instituting viewing of the Space Shuttle Main Engine tests at Stennis, marketing and expanding Mississippi's Travel Attraction of the Year, the StennisSphere, and serving on the Board of Directors for both the Gulf Coast and Hancock County Chambers of Commerce.

The success of Stennis Space Center is inseparable from the leadership and service of Myron Webb. Her extraordinary contributions to NASA and Mississippi deserve this highest recognition of the Distinguished Service Medal. Myron, on behalf of the United States Congress, I thank you for your remarkable contributions to our national space program.

HONORING THE LIFE OF STEVE
PILIBOS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Steve Pilibos who lived a long and fulfilling life of 102 years. Steve was a pillar in the community, and his support, dedication, and commitment to the success of the Central Valley region will be greatly missed.

Steve grew up in Fresno, California and was the youngest of six children. His parents, Yeprem and Mary, were first generation immigrants from the Ottoman Empire. Growing up in an immigrant family with five siblings, Steve quickly developed fundamental values and principles. Most everyone would agree that Steve was an extremely courteous and fair businessman. He understood the importance of treating others with respect, compassion, and consideration.

From a young age, Steve recognized the significance of hard work. As an adolescent, Steve would sell produce to local businesses before school each day. Prior to Steve becoming a successful entrepreneur, he earned degrees in philosophy and poetry from Fresno State College, and he continued his education at the University of Southern California where he earned his law degree.

In the 1950s, Steve and his older brother, Alex, began what would soon become one of the largest cantaloupe operations in California. They experimented with new varieties of melon seeds from Syria, and ultimately produced a sweet melon with a thinner rind and smaller seed cavity that quickly became popular.

In addition to his contributions to the agriculture industry, Steve worked tirelessly to redevelop the City of Fresno's downtown. He opened the Hilton Hotel in the heart of downtown. Steve hosted many famous singers and bands, and it was a place where people wanted to be. Steve made many investments in downtown Fresno, but he also established developments throughout the entire city.

In 1949, Steve married the love of his life, Lucille. They raised five children: Sarah, Catherine, Barbara, Mary, and Alex. Steve valued spending time with his family and enjoyed reciting poetry to his children. He had a love for the outdoors and would spend his free time hunting or horseback riding. Steve's children, six grandchildren, relatives, and friends have an outstanding role model that they will hold in their hearts forever.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to honor the life of Steve Pilibos. His presence will be greatly missed, but his legacy will surely live on in the City of Fresno.

SUPPORT FOR THE CIRCASSIAN
PEOPLE

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concerns regarding the Sochi Olympics. A number of issues have been raised regarding the misguided decision to host the 2014 Olympics in Sochi, from LGBT rights to the real threat of terrorism. However, I would like to discuss an issue which has not received the same level of attention: the historical mistreatment of the Circassian people by Russia.

The Circassians are an ethnic group originating in the North Caucasus region. Sochi is located in the historical nation of Circassia, which was conquered by the Russian Empire in a series of wars during the 18th and 19th centuries. In fact, Sochi served as the last capitol of Circassia.

Following their defeat in 1864, 90 percent of the Circassian population was forcibly deported or killed and Circassia was annexed by Russia. Hundreds of thousands of Circassians were exiled from their homeland, never to return.

Millions of Circassians are now spread around the world in diaspora communities, while only about 700,000 Circassians remain within their ancestral homeland, now a part of the Russian Federation.

Given this history, it is deeply disrespectful to the Circassian community for the Russian government to use Sochi as a stage to promote themselves to the world. Although I condemn the decision to hold the Olympics in Sochi, this year's Winter Olympics present the opportunity to raise the world's awareness of the historical injustices perpetrated by Russia against the Circassian people and homeland.

Today, Circassians worldwide strive to achieve the right of return to their homeland, and seek to gain self-determination and a revival of their language and culture. I am proud to represent a large and active Circassian-American community within New Jersey's Ninth Congressional District.

Colleagues, I urge you to join me in condemning the Sochi Olympics and celebrating the contributions of the Circassian people to the United States of America.

IN HONOR OF THE STUDENT LEADERS'
VON NIEDA PART TASK
FORCE

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Student Leaders' Von Nieda Park Task Force for their efforts in continuing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy by coordinating their 5th annual MLK Day of Community Organizing.

These South Jersey students choose to celebrate the life of Dr. King not simply through remembrance, but by following in his footsteps. These leaders honor the memory of Dr. King engaging their fellow youth in community

organizing. Thanks to their hard work, the Student Leaders' Von Nieda Park Task Force has transformed Von Nieda Park into a cleaner, safer, more beautiful park through community organizing, and regular meetings with public officials.

For this reason, it is my honor to submit the names of the student leaders to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD: Jenaya Aide, Jessica Aldana, Alejandro Bernal, Eloisa Colon, Karelys Cruz-Bermudez, Samantha Fontanez, Elino Javier, Sergio Martinez, Ashley Melendez, Janeliz Muniz, Jose Reyes, Rodrigo Reyes, Alex Rosario, Dean Rosario, Lea Rosario, Ziani Sanchez, and Itzel Tapia.

Mr. Speaker, these students exemplify the commitment to community and justice championed by Dr. King. I join all of South Jersey in honoring their dedication to the memory of one of our country's greatest leaders.

RULE GOVERNING DEBATE ON H.R.
3547 "OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS
ACT FOR FY 2014"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the rule and the underlying bill, H.R. 3547, the bipartisan "Omnibus Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2014."

I want to thank Chairman RODGERS and Ranking Member LOWEY for their constructive work in fashioning this bipartisan and bicameral legislation to fund the government for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2014.

The bill before us is not perfect—far from it—but it is a modest and positive step toward preventing Republicans from shutting down the government again and manufacturing crises that only harm our economy, destroy jobs, and weaken our middle class.

As with any compromise there are some things in the agreement that I support and some things that I do not.

The bill abides by all the terms set by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (the "Ryan-Murray Agreement"), providing a total of \$1.012 trillion for the operation of the federal government, a substantial and necessary increase over the inadequate \$968 billion spending limit contained in the House budget resolution which led to the shutdown of the federal government last October.

The bill contains all 12 regular appropriations bills for fiscal year 2014, with no area of the government functioning under a Continuing Resolution, thus allowing every program to be considered on its own merits and prioritized, rather than be subject to arbitrary across the board cuts.

The bill also provides increased funding for several programs that I strongly support. Let me list just a few of the more important ones. Agriculture and Related Agencies:

\$6.7 billion for Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), sufficient to meet expected need in 2014.

Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies:

\$17.65 billion for NASA, which is \$154.8 million more than the 2013 enacted level.

\$376 million for Byrne-JAG grants, which is \$8.3 million less than the 2013 enacted level

and \$11 million more than the post-sequester level.

\$214 million for the COPS program, which is \$4 million less than the 2013 enacted level and \$4 million more than the post-sequester level.

\$417 million for Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs, which is \$9.1 more than the 2013 enacted level.

The bill rejects House proposals to prohibit the Department of Justice from using funds to challenge state immigration laws; and prohibit grants from being awarded to "sanctuary" cities.

Defense:

Multiple provisions focused on eliminating sexual assault in the Department of Defense and supporting victims, including: (1) Fully funds request of \$156.5 million for Sexual Assault and Prevention Office (SAPRO) services; (2) \$25 million above request to implement a Sexual Assault Special Victims Program; (3) Prohibition on obligation of funds contravening more severe penalties for perpetrators established in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

Fully funds Peer Reviewed Medical Research Programs and includes \$125 million above the request for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Psychological Health research and \$4 million above the request for alcohol and substance abuse research.

The final agreement repeals last year's cut to cost of living adjustments for disabled military retirees and survivors.

Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies:

\$1.912 billion for Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy, which is \$102 million more than the 2013 enacted level.

\$5.467 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers, which is \$495 million more than the 2013 enacted level (excluding emergency funding for Hurricane Sandy relief).

\$1.11 billion for water resources projects within the Department of Interior, which is \$46 million more than the 2013 enacted level.

The agreement eliminates the majority of riders proposed in the House bill, including those related to Waters of the United States, guns on Corps lands, Clean Water Act agriculture exemptions and ceiling fan standards.

Financial Services and General Government:

\$673.3 million for the District of Columbia, which is roughly equal to the 2013 enacted level.

Homeland Security:

\$10.6 billion for Customs and Border Protection, \$220.4 million more than the 2013 enacted level.

\$4.93 billion for the Transportation Security Administration, which is \$225.8 million less than the 2013 enacted level.

\$923.8 million for Cybersecurity and Communications, an increase of \$27.5 million above the 2013 enacted level.

\$4.35 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, \$3.8 million above the 2013 enacted level.

\$1.5 billion for State and Local Grants, an increase of \$35.4 million above the 2013 enacted level; and

\$680 million for Firefighter Grants, an increase of \$5.7 million above the 2013 enacted level.

Controversial House riders related to abortion services and immigration enforcement are not included in the bill.

Among the contentious riders dropped was a provision to prohibit ICE from adhering to enforcement guidance, including a June 15, 2012, memo prioritizing enforcement actions against dangerous criminals ahead of DREAM Act children.

Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies:

\$3.938 billion for wildland fire, which is \$417 million more than the 2013 enacted level.

\$4.4 billion for the Indian Health Service, which is \$78 million more than the 2013 enacted level.

A total of \$2.35 billion for the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Funds, which is only \$4.7 million less than 2013 enacted levels but \$119 million more than the post-sequester level.

\$2.6 billion for the National Park Service, which is \$29 million more than the 2013 enacted level.

\$146 million each for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, which is equal to their 2013 enacted levels.

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies:

\$8.6 billion for Head Start, which is \$612 million more than the 2013 enacted level, sufficient to both fully restore the cuts to Head Start and to invest in the Administration's Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships.

\$2.6 billion for job training through WIA Training and Employment Formula Grant program, which is \$10 million less than the 2013 enacted level but \$121 million more than the post-sequester level.

\$815 million for Seniors' Nutrition programs, which is equal to the 2013 enacted level and \$46 million more than the post-sequester level, allowing full restoration of meals.

\$2.36 billion for Child Care & Development Block Grants, which is \$36 million more than the 2013 enacted level.

The agreement abandons the futile but wasteful effort by House Republicans to repeal the Affordable Care Act and provides the Department of HHS roughly the same amount as it had last year for implementation of the Affordable Care Act, and some additional funds will become available through existing fees on policies sold on the exchanges.

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies:

\$63.2 billion in discretionary funding for Veterans Affairs, which is \$2.3 billion more than the 2013 enacted level.

\$585.6 million for prosthetic research, which is \$3.5 million above the 2013 enacted level.

The Omnibus provides new tools and resources to address the backlog of veterans disability claims by increasing personnel, enhancing training and quality oversight, and strengthening accountability.

State, Foreign Operations, and Related Agencies:

The final agreement does not include a policy rider codifying the 'Global Gag Rule,' which prohibits non-governmental organizations (NGOs) receiving federal funds from providing women information about certain health services.

I would have preferred that the bill provide more than \$2.67 billion for Embassy Security, Construction and Maintenance, an amount that is \$224 million less than the 2013 enacted level. Our diplomats who risk their lives serving in dangerous outposts around the world

deserve all the resources required to keep them safe.

Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies:

\$600 million for National Infrastructure Investments (TIGER), which is \$100 million more than the 2013 enacted level.

\$17.4 billion for Section 8 Tenant Based Rental Assistance renewals, which is \$123 million more than the 2013 enacted level.

\$9.6 billion for Section 8 Project Based Rental Assistance renewals, which is \$596 million more than the 2013 enacted level.

\$1 billion for HOME Investment Partnerships, which is equal to the 2013 enacted level.

The bill does not include any funds for high-speed rail. I believe this decision is short-sighted and shortchanges our nation's future. Highspeed rail will save energy, create jobs, and increase our nation's global competitiveness.

As I stated, this bill is not perfect. But on balance it is a significant improvement over the spending bills considered in the House last year and is worthy of our support.

SUPPORTING THE DEMOCRATIC ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the people of Kyiv and so many cities and towns throughout Ukraine are right now struggling, praying, and risking—some of them really risking their lives on the Maidan for justice and human dignity.

The government's violent crackdown has led to the deaths of at least four protestors, and countless beatings, arrests, detentions, kidnappings or harassment of activists, journalists, medics and lawyers.

I want to join many of my colleagues in calling on the Ukrainian government to stop, now, these attacks on human life and the basic human rights of free expression, assembly and association—and immediately to release those detained for peaceful actions and account for missing persons.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we should urge Ukrainians to find a peaceful, political settlement of the crisis through meaningful negotiations between the government and the opposition in order to get Ukraine back on the road to democracy. As to association with Europe, it is not our government's place to say what the Ukrainian government or people should do either way on this point, above all since we don't know what arrangements are on offer. But we do stand up for the right of the Ukrainian people to determine this according to their own constitution and laws, free from coercive pressures by any foreign government.

While the current Ukrainian government has committed grave injustices in the course of this crisis, I am encouraged by signs that it is taking steps to resolve the crisis, including the revocation of the onerous January 16 anti-protest laws and the resignation of the government.

The people of Ukraine have endured tremendous suffering over the course of the last century including two world wars and 70 years of Soviet brutality, most starkly illustrated by Stalin's genocidal famine which resulted in the deaths of millions. With independence came new-found freedoms, but these have been challenged by corruption of grotesque proportions. The long-suffering Ukrainian people deserve better—they deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.

Given the heroic strength and character and democratic maturity the Ukrainian people are showing in this crisis, I am confident that they will not be denied a more democratic future.

HONORING NANCY HEIMBAUGH

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the outstanding contributions made by Ms. Nancy Heimbaurgh, who will retire from the Defense Logistics Agency in Fort Belvoir, Virginia, on February 3, 2014.

Ms. Heimbaurgh's distinguished government career spans 37 years, and her record of achievement during this period reflects greatly upon herself and upon the organizations at which she has served, including her most recent role as DLA's Senior Procurement Executive/Component Acquisition Executive (SPE/CAE). Her contributions to the national defense were significant and she will be missed as she moves on to new and exciting opportunities.

Ms. Heimbaurgh, originally from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, entered the Federal service working for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine, in 1976. There, she held a series of positions in purchasing and supply. In 1984 she became a contracting officer for the Naval Supply Center in Charleston, South Carolina. Ms. Heimbaurgh attended Strayer University, and the National Defense University, Industrial College of the Armed Services, and is the recipient of special achievement and performance awards, including the Exceptional Civilian Service Award in 2012, Meritorious Civilian Service Award in 2007 and Vice President Gore's National Performance Review's Heroes of Reinvention Hammer Award for Electronic Commerce in 1996. In 1999, she was selected into the Defense Leadership and Management Program, a program designed to provide a Department of Defense framework for developing future civilian leaders.

In 1991, Ms. Heimbaurgh joined the Naval Supply Systems Command Headquarters as a senior procurement analyst providing contracting expertise and guidance to field contracting activities. Ms. Heimbaurgh joined the Defense Logistics Agency in 2001 as a senior procurement analyst.

Ms. Heimbaurgh reached a career benchmark in 2007 with her selection into the Senior Executive Service as Director of Contracting and Acquisition Management at Defense Supply Center in Philadelphia; the first PLFA-level Acquisition Executive appointed in the Agency.

She was responsible for managing an acquisition workforce generating \$14 billion in awards across four supply chains. Ms. Heimbaurgh then served as the Director of Contracting and Acquisition Management in 2009. Her leadership was epitomized by the Defense Logistics Agency's performance during Hurricane Sandy, when she personally cut through the red tape in the contracting process to ensure needed supplies and services were delivered to our fellow citizens in New York and New Jersey in record time.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Nancy Heimbaurgh's contributions to the Defense Logistics Agency and the American people, and I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating her on her retirement from civil service. She epitomizes the dedication and professionalism that make our Federal civil service a model all over the world.

CONGRATULATING DR. STEPHEN KLEINSMITH AND ZAC RANTZ

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dr. Stephen Kleinsmith, superintendent, and Zac Rantz, director of communication, of Nixa Public Schools, on receiving the 2014 Leadership Through Communication Award.

It is important to keep the channels of communication open and the Leadership Through Communication Award recognizes a school district for their outstanding efforts in communicating with the families and communities they serve. It is jointly awarded by Blackboard, the National School Public Relations Association, and the American Association of School Administrators. This award is open to all school districts throughout the United States and Canada.

The Nixa Public Schools have engaged with their community to create a two-way street of communication. They have created a constant cycle of school administration transparency and community feedback.

When he joined the school district in 2000, Dr. Stephen Kleinsmith made communications a top priority. He has worked closely with Zac Rantz in revamping the Nixa Public Schools' communication systems. They have utilized social media, technology, direct messaging, and face-to-face interaction to engage with the Nixa community. They not only reach out to the parents of their students, but the local business community and taxpayers without children in the schools as well. The Nixa Public Schools have served as an example to school districts all throughout the State of Missouri.

I am proud of the initiative that Dr. Kleinsmith and Mr. Rantz have taken to make the Nixa Public Schools the best in communicating with their community. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on this tremendous honor.

COMMENDING ASSEMBLY MEMBER JUNG CHEONG RAE AND KOREAN AMERICAN CIVIC EMPOWERMENT (KACE) FOR LEADING EFFORTS IN WASHINGTON, DC, TO OPPOSE ONLINE WHITE HOUSE PETITION CALLING FOR REMOVAL OF COMFORT WOMAN STATUE IN CALIFORNIA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Assembly Member Jung Cheong Rae of the Republic of Korea for the outstanding work he is doing in cooperation with Mr. Kim Dong-suk, founder of Korean American Civic Empowerment, KACE, to spearhead efforts in Washington, DC, to oppose the online White House petition calling for removal of the "Comfort Woman" statue in Glendale, CA, which was submitted on the White House's open petitioning website, "We the People."

The petition includes the following text: "Please remove the statue in a public park in Glendale, California. It is a statue of a Comfort Woman masquerading as a peace statue while in essence after reading the inscription it is promoting hate towards the people and nation of Japan." The petition was signed by 125,261 people and it is estimated that most of the signees are Japanese nationals who do not reside in the United States.

This absurd petition shows why the House of Representatives had to unanimously pass the "Comfort Woman" Resolution of 2007 (H. Res. 121), which urges Japan to formally acknowledge and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Forces' coercion of as many as 200,000 young women into sexual slavery during World War II, to clearly and publicly refute any claims that the sexual enslavement and trafficking of the Comfort Woman never occurred, and to educate current and future generations about this horrible crime.

Once the U.S. House of Representatives had spoken on the issue, it was hoped that this issue could be put behind us so that we could work with our Pacific allies to face the challenges of a rising China and a nuclear North Korea. However, Japan totally disregarded what we have recommended and is trying to whitewash its war crimes.

The movement to deny the painful realities of World War II history in the Pacific represent not only a lack of progress but are, in fact, moves toward regression away from that limited level of reconciliation that has already been achieved.

Today, over 120,000 Japanese people are totally unaware, if not ignorant, of the atrocities that were perpetrated by Japan during World War II. This number will grow every day if Japan keeps disregarding H. Res. 121, the Comfort Woman Resolution.

I strongly urge the Government of Japan to formally acknowledge and apologize in order to begin the reconciliation process and to create better relationships in the future. Japan cannot move forward by erasing the past and it is of the utmost importance that Japan follows through on H. Res. 121.

A formal apology from Japan as called for in H. Res. 121 is the answer to the White House

online petition. And so, once more, I commend Assembly Member Jung Cheong Rae, who is a personal friend of mine, for taking the time to be in Washington, DC, this week and for calling upon Members of Congress and others to also exercise their first amendment rights by speaking out against the White House online petition.

It is my sincere hope that President Obama will respond soon, and make clear that he supports justice for the more than 200,000 women from Korea, China, the Philippines, Indonesia, and other countries from the Pacific who were forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese Imperial Army during WW II.

On a personal note, I offer my deepest love and appreciation for these women, though many of them have already passed from this life. What was done to them is unconscionable, and I will stand in support of them forevermore.

I bear no animosity or ill-will towards the people of Japan and I must emphasize that our economic, strategic, and military alliance with Japan is important. However, regarding this issue, there can be no reconciliation without proper acknowledgement. The recognition of this dark chapter of Japan's history of the atrocities and sexual slavery operations authorized and implemented by the Japanese Imperial Army before and during World War II cannot be denied, and the White House must not be complicit by remaining silent.

AZERBAIJAN—BLACK JANUARY

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, every four years, on January 20th, all Americans celebrate the inauguration of a new President. It is a time of hope and a quadrennial reminder of the enduring nature of our democracy and the peaceful transition of power from one administration to the next.

January is also a time for celebration and commemoration for a friend and ally, the Republic of Azerbaijan. This January marks the 24th anniversary of the events that marked the beginning of the end of Soviet rule over Azerbaijan, an occupation that existed for much of the 20th Century.

This time period is referred to in Azerbaijan as "Black January," when violent conflict erupted in Azerbaijan's capital city of Baku on January 19–20, 1990 Soviet troops killed over 100 nationalist demonstrators and wounded another 700 Azeri citizens. When Soviet troops fired on innocent civilians, including old people and children, demanding freedom, it became a defining moment in recent Azeri history.

Azerbaijan eventually declared its independence from the U.S.S.R. on October 18, 1991. In the report, "Black January in Azerbaijan," Human Rights Watch put the events into a larger perspective: "the violence used by the Soviet Army on the night of January 19–20 was . . . an exercise in collective punishment . . . intended as a warning to nationalists, not only in Azerbaijan, but in the other Republics of the Soviet Union."

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in commemorating—with our friend and

ally, Azerbaijan—the events of Black January in 1990, events which began in tragedy but culminated in the birth of an independent nation and ally of the United States. May God bless this nation as it continues to move forward.

RECOGNIZING TARYN WILCOX

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Taryn Wilcox of Robbinsville, New Jersey for her tireless advocacy on behalf of those suffering from diabetes.

As you will read in her statement submitted for the RECORD, fourteen-year-old Taryn was diagnosed with Type I diabetes at the age of five. Serving as the American Diabetes Association's Teen Ambassador and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's Advocate, Taryn has chosen to make a meaningful difference by raising awareness of diabetes and joining the fight to find a cure.

I had the opportunity to meet with Taryn in my office and hear first-hand her testimony—and could not have been more impressed with her passion and focus. According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nearly 26 million Americans—roughly 8.3% of the population—suffer from diabetes. Diabetes is a leading cause of heart disease and stroke, hypertension, blindness and eye problems, kidney disease, nervous system damage, and amputations, among other ailments. I've worked with diabetes advocates in the past on such things as legislation I authored to extend Medicare coverage for therapeutic shoes for elderly diabetics. This common-sense solution has helped countless numbers of senior diabetics over the last twenty years.

Many young Americans—an estimated 215,000 under the age of twenty, like Taryn—are suffering from diabetes. The relative rarity at this age bracket only leads to common misconceptions about those affected by juvenile diabetes. As Taryn states, she cannot simply take a break from diabetes—it is constant. She must monitor her disease twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, both checking her blood glucose and giving herself insulin injections up to twelve times a day.

Taryn writes about teachers and swim coaches who became frustrated with her need to monitor and manage her blood sugar and publicly questioned her ability to compete. But Taryn has refused to quit, using these all-too-common incidents as motivation to succeed and accomplish her goals. She has achieved straight A's and has become one of the best swimmers in the State. Through her accomplishments, Taryn has shown that while diabetes is a daily struggle, increased awareness can assist those suffering from diabetes—providing them with positive support and enabling them to achieve their goals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Taryn Wilcox of Robbinsville, New Jersey for her personal testimony and leadership in the fight against diabetes, and encourage all of you to read her testimony. Her efforts and her passion are an inspiration to us all.

CONGRESSMAN SMITH, I really appreciate the opportunity to speak to you about how diabetes affects me and the importance of finding a cure.

I am 14 years old and was diagnosed with Type I Diabetes at the age of 5. I was hospitalized, during my diagnosis, two months prior to entering kindergarten. I have had diabetes for as long as I can remember . . . for most of my life.

To be honest, it has been challenging managing my diabetes, a disease requiring 24/7 monitoring! I count carbohydrates in everything I eat, check my blood glucose up to 12 times a day as well as give myself up to 12 insulin injections a day. My parents check my blood glucose 2-3 times every night while I sleep! I've had over 68,000 needle sticks since my diagnosis. If I stacked all the needles I've used, it would reach the top of the Washington Monument 26 times!!!!

Although I try to stay positive, I'm fearful of the many complications and challenges which can result from diabetes such as blindness, amputations, cardiovascular disease, kidney failure and the arduous task of maintaining my blood sugar in a normal range. Sometimes my blood sugar will drop too low or go too high and I feel HORRIBLE. My legs shake . . . I can't think well . . . my heart beats rapidly and sometimes my vision is blurred. There are times I have to sit out during fun activities or miss class time and sit in the nurse's office. It can be a very lonely feeling. Once, soon after my diagnosis, I had a seizure while visiting my grandmother in Arizona. It was an extremely scary experience. It's frustrating not being able to have any time away or vacation from diabetes, it always comes with me.

Managing my diabetes isn't the only challenge I've had to face since my diagnosis. In 6th grade I asked my teacher to go to the nurse's office to give myself an insulin injection to lower my high blood glucose. She clearly wasn't happy about me missing class time and said loudly in front of my class. . . . "You make diabetes convenient don't you!" Trust me there's nothing convenient about having diabetes.

Years ago while in 2nd grade, I had to change schools because my teacher started treating me differently from my peers. No matter HOW much information was given to her about the disease, she became frustrated with me whenever I needed to manage my diabetes in her classroom. She couldn't understand why I had to check my blood sugar several times during school hours, leave class to go to the nurse's office when my blood sugar was too high or low and told me how unfair it was to drink juice in front of my peers. Looking back, I don't understand why she didn't think how unfair it was for a 7 year old kid to live with diabetes.

A similar challenge arose in when one of my competitive swim team coaches thought it was RIDICULOUS I had to stop swimming laps during swim practice to manage my blood sugar. One day she crouched down and looked me in the eye in front of my team mates and said, "If you can't manage to swim continuously during the 1 1/2 hours of practice, you will NEVER make a state swim team!"

The good news is . . . I became a straight "A" student at my new school and I placed 5th and 14th in State with my new swim team! It's a frustrating feeling knowing I have to work TWICE as hard as everybody else to achieve my goals because of trying to balance my diabetes with everyday life. It makes it even harder when some people around me don't have the patience to try to understand my disease. I can't take a "break" from diabetes—it's constant.

Although, I face many challenges every day, living with diabetes, I stay positive by

spreading awareness and above all, supporting the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, the American Diabetes Association and other organizations in their mission to finding a cure and promoting advocacy. There are over 26 million people in the U.S. who have diabetes so it is important for Congress to fund diabetes research at the highest level as possible. Hopefully, by working together Congressman Smith, we can make a difference in the lives of people living with diabetes to live a happy and healthier life and one day soon, be cured.

TARYN WILCOX.

TRIBUTE TO PETE SEEGER, LEGENDARY FOLK SINGER AND CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is my sad duty to announce to the House that America has lost one of its greatest voices championing the cause of civil rights, social and economic justice, and peace. Pete Seeger, the legendary folk singer and prolific songwriter, who helped popularize the beloved "We Shall Overcome" as the anthem of the Civil Rights Movement, died yesterday in New York City. He was 94 years old.

For more than 60 years, Pete Seeger's was a powerful voice, unafraid of speaking out against what was wrong with our country, while always promoting that people stand up and speak just as fervently for things that are right.

Pete Seeger had a vision of America's potential and that idea flowed through his music to impact so many people in the United States and around the world.

Pete Seeger's humility kept us rooted as a people by reminding us of our common humanity while his songs challenged us to realize the full promise of country. The author of such iconic songs as "If I Had A Hammer," "Turn, Turn, Turn," and "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?," Pete Seeger touched chords deep in the American heart and inspired many of the great songwriters of succeeding generations, including Bob Dylan and Bruce Springsteen.

Mr. Seeger sang about the labor movements of the 1940s and 1950s, confronted with his music the Vietnam War, civil rights and the environment. From roots residing in spirituals, songs like "We Shall Overcome," spoke to activists in the civil rights movements and became a rallying cry for their efforts.

Pete Seeger was elected to the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1972, and in 1993 received a lifetime achievement Grammy Award. In 1994 he received a Kennedy Center Honor and, from President Bill Clinton, the National Medal of Arts, America's highest arts honor, awarded by the National Endowment for the Arts. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1996. At the age of 89, Mr. Seeger won a Grammy Award in the children's music category in 2011 for "Tomorrow's Children," and another in 1997, for the traditional folk album "Pete."

With Pete Seeger's passing, the nation has lost a great champion for jobs and justice for working people. It is up to us, the living, to carry on the struggle for the causes to which Peter Seeger devoted his life.

I ask a moment of silence in honor of Pete Seeger.

RECOGNIZING VALLEY CRIME STOPPERS FOR THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Valley Crime Stoppers as they celebrate their 20th anniversary. The tremendous efforts they have made to help crime victims in our Central Valley deserve to be commended.

Valley Crime Stoppers has built strong relationships with the city of Fresno, local media, and law enforcement. Citizens are encouraged to call the police or Valley Crime Stoppers if they have any information concerning a crime they witnessed. Victims and bystanders have a safe place to turn in Valley Crime Stoppers because it is an anonymous tip line. It is an unfortunate truth that victims are often fearful to share information with law enforcement because they have been threatened by their offender. Valley Crime Stoppers provides victims with an alternative, so they can tell their story without fear of retribution.

Educating and bringing awareness to residents are important missions of Valley Crime Stoppers. They have put together several campaigns that aim to lower crime in the Central Valley, including a television promotion that brings awareness to the very negative consequences of children being exposed to domestic violence. In addition, Valley Crime Stoppers has a poster campaign that aims to keep neighborhoods safe by getting guns out of the hands of criminals. Residents have been given the tools to act as change agents to keep the entire San Joaquin Valley safe.

As Co-Chairman of the Victims' Rights Caucus, it is my honor to recognize the good work of Valley Crime Stoppers and to thank the board members and staff at Valley Crime Stoppers for their support and activism.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Valley Crime Stoppers as they celebrate their 20th anniversary. Valley Crime Stoppers has truly made a difference in our Valley, and it will continue to do so for many decades to come.

H.R. 7

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, due to a medical issue, I was unable to be in Washington, DC for votes on Tuesday, January 28, 2014. I strongly oppose H.R. 7 and had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "no."

H.R. 7 is a thinly veiled attempt to insert politics into the doctor's office and private market, and to continue the GOP assault on women. It would effectively ban abortion coverage in new plans available under the Affordable Care Act, even for women purchasing plans in the state-based marketplaces who

use their own, private funds to pay for their insurance. This bill would also place an undue burden on small businesses, which would have to carefully examine every health care plan they offer to find out if it covers abortion services, and imposes a tax penalty on small businesses who choose such private plans.

Finally, H.R. 7 would permanently block abortion coverage for low-income women, civil servants, DC residents, and military women by codifying anti-choice provisions throughout federal law.

Not only are these alarming policy goals, but I would note that they contradict the Re-

publican view of government by importing government intervention directly into the doctor-patient relationship. It's bad for women, bad for families, and bad for business.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, January 30, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's record.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 3

3 p.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on National Security and International Trade and Finance

To hold hearings to examine safeguarding consumers' financial data.

SD-538

FEBRUARY 4

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Rhea Sun Suh, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, and Janice Marion Schneider, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Land and Mineral Management, both of the Department of the Interior.

SD-366

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife

To hold hearings to examine the safety and security of drinking water supplies following the Central West Virginia drinking water crisis.

SD-406

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine negotiations on Iran's nuclear program.

SD-419

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight

To hold hearings to examine fraud and abuse in army recruiting contracts.

SD-342

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine privacy in the digital age, focusing on preventing data breaches and combating cybercrime.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine moving from constant crises to broad-based growth, focusing on the 2014 outlook.

SD-608

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Vivek Hallegere Murthy, of Massachusetts, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service.

SD-430

12 noon

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. Res. 333, strongly recommending that the United States renegotiate the return of the Iraqi Jewish Archive to Iraq, S. Res. 270, supporting the goals and ideals of World Polio Day and commending the international community and others for their efforts to prevent and eradicate polio, and the nominations of Rose Eilene Gottemoeller, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Secu-

rity, Frank A. Rose, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary (Verification and Compliance), Puneet Talwar, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary (Political-Military Affairs), Robert C. Barber, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iceland, George James Tsunis, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway, Colleen Bradley Bell, of California, to be Ambassador to Hungary, and Keith M. Harper, of Maryland, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as United States Representative to the UN Human Rights Council, all of the Department of State.

S-116

3 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Bathsheba Nell Crocker, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for International Organization Affairs, Michael Anderson Lawson, of California, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization, and Robert A. Wood, of New York, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the Conference on Disarmament, all of the Department of State.

SD-419

FEBRUARY 12

10 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold an oversight to examine the report of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board on Reforms to the Section 215 telephone records program and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

SD-226

Special Committee on Aging

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold a joint hearing to examine the challenges and advantages of senior entrepreneurship.

SD-562